

## Assessment

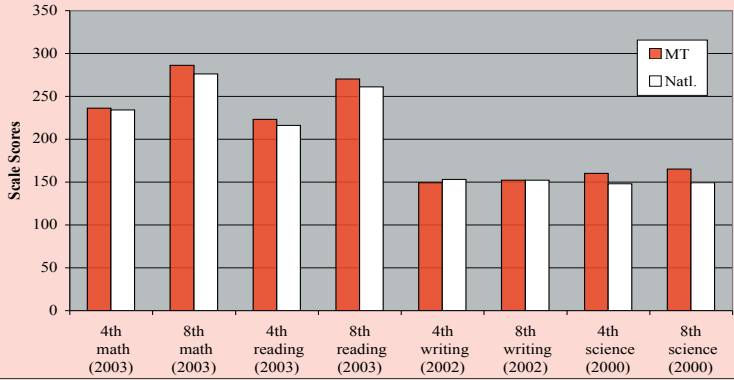
### Test Scores

	2001		2002		2003	
	MT	Natl.	MT	Natl.	MT	Natl.
SAT*						
Verbal	539	506	541	504	538	507
Math	539	514	547	516	543	519
ACT**	21.7	21.0	21.7	20.8	21.7	20.8

\*Scholastic Aptitude Test—In 2003, 26% of Montana graduating seniors took the SAT.

\*\*American College Testing Program—In 2003, 52% of Montana graduating seniors took the ACT.

**NAEP Assessment MT Average Scale Scores Compared to National Averages**



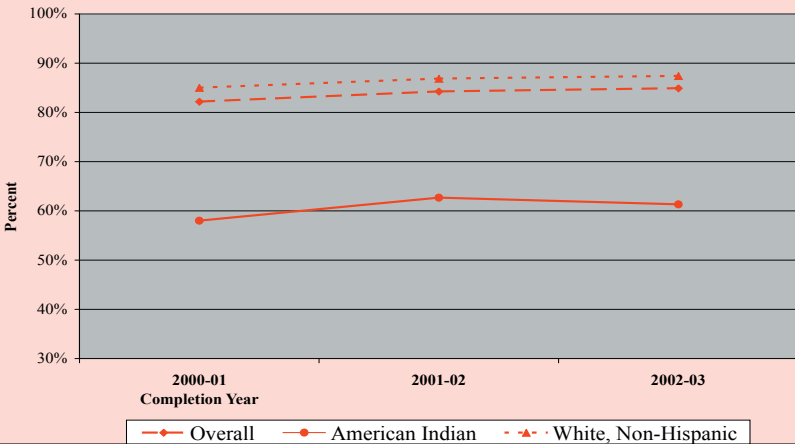
Montana continues to out pace the nation when it comes to NAEP scores, but the gap is narrowing and now the national average is higher than the state average in writing.

### High School Graduates 2003

High school graduates 2003	10,657
GED* recipients (ages 16 to 19)	1,291

\*General Educational Development

**Montana High School Completion Rate By Race**



High school completion rates have been going up slightly over the past three years for all races, although American Indian students still trail the state average by more than 20 percentage points and trail white students by more than 25 percentage points.

## Dear Friends:

I am proud of Montana's education system and honored to be leading efforts to build a bright future for our students. We have remarkable resources and talent in our communities, schools, and families. Our excellent public education is built on educators, students, parents, business and community members working together to invest in Montana's future. I am pleased to present the informative "Facts About Montana Education." To learn more about K-12 education in Montana, I invite you to visit our Web site at [www.opi.state.mt.us](http://www.opi.state.mt.us).

Linda McCulloch, State Superintendent

### About the Big Sky State

- Population: 902,195 (2000 Census); 917,621 (2003 Estimate)
- Size: 147,046 square miles (fourth largest state)
- Population density: 6.2 per square mile (2000 Census)
- Racial makeup: White 90.6%, American Indian 6.2%, Hispanic 2%, Asian .6%, Black .3%, Other .6% (2000 Census)
- School makeup: White 85.1%, American Indian 11.0%, Hispanic 2.1%, Asian .9%, Black .7%, Pacific Islander .1%
- 570 miles long, 315 miles wide
- Western one-third mountainous and timbered
- Eastern two-thirds plains with occasional mountains
- Elevation range: 1,820 to 12,799 feet above sea level
- Borders three Canadian provinces and four states
- Headwaters for two major rivers—Missouri and Columbia
- Seven Indian reservations
- Primary industries: agriculture, services, government (including education), retail trade

#### For More Information About Montana, contact:

- [www.discoveringmontana.com](http://www.discoveringmontana.com) • Travel Montana (406) 841-2870
- The Census & Economic Information Center (406) 841-2740 (<http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us/>)

#### For more school data:

- [www.opi.state.mt.us/measurement/](http://www.opi.state.mt.us/measurement/)
- [www.opi.state.mt.us/reportcard/](http://www.opi.state.mt.us/reportcard/)

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## FACTS ABOUT

# MONTANA EDUCATION



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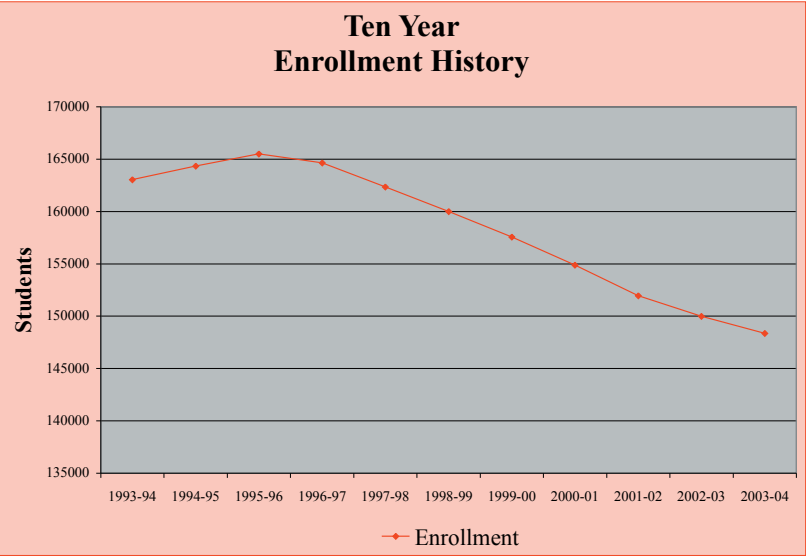
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[www.opi.state.mt.us](http://www.opi.state.mt.us)

August 2004

Montana Public School Enrollment			
	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<i>% change</i> <u>2003-04</u>
Elementary			
Prekindergarten	661	659	
Kindergarten	9,898	10,146	
Grades 1-6	65,790	64,734	
Grades 7-8	24,568	24,333	
Ungraded	<u>121</u>	<u>104</u>	
<b>Total Elementary</b>	<b>101,038</b>	<b>99,976</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>
High Schools			
Grades 9-12	48,577	47,961	
Ungraded	<u>186</u>	<u>231</u>	
<b>Total High School</b>	<b>48,763</b>	<b>48,192</b>	<b>- 1.2%</b>
State-Funded Schools*			
Elementary (PreK-8)	44	42	
High School (9-12)	<u>150</u>	<u>146</u>	
<b>Total State-Funded Schools</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>- 3.1%</b>
<b>Total Public School Enrollment</b>	<b>149,995</b>	<b>148,356</b>	<b>- 1.1%</b>
* The state-funded schools are Pine Hills School, Riverside School and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind.			



Montana enrollment peaked in the 1995-96 school year. Since then, enrollment has decreased by over 17,000 students. The enrollment decrease is due to the decrease in Montana live births. In 2002, Montana had one of the lowest birth rates in the country. The number of live births started to increase in 2000 and projections have the number rising in the next ten years. While enrollment has been declining as a whole, American Indian enrollment has increased by 5 percent over the past 10 years.

School Size and Enrollment 2003-04				
Elementary Schools				
School Size	No. of Schools	Percent of Schools	Enrollment	Percent of Enrollment
>500	8	2%	4,573	6%
250 to 499	119	26%	41,409	58%
100 to 249	98	21%	17,487	24%
50 to 99	65	14%	4,654	7%
<50	172	37%	3,431	5%
Middle, 7&8, Junior High Schools				
School Size	No. of Schools	Percent of Schools	Enrollment	Percent of Enrollment
>500	14	6%	10,016	34%
250 to 499	24	11%	8,917	31%
100 to 249	29	13%	4,479	15%
50 to 99	46	21%	3,224	11%
<50	109	49%	2,492	9%
High Schools				
School Size	No. of Schools	Percent of Schools	Enrollment	Percent of Enrollment
>500	25	14%	28,754	60%
250 to 499	21	12%	7,582	16%
100 to 249	45	26%	7,112	15%
50 to 99	40	23%	2,821	6%
<50	44	25%	1,405	3%

<b>Public School Districts</b>	<u>2003-04</u>		
K-12 districts	55		
Combined elementary (joint board)	105		
Combined high school (joint board)	105		
Single districts (168 Elem; 5 HS)	173		
State-funded districts	2		
Nonoperating and annexed districts	<u>10</u>		
<b>Total School Districts</b>	<b>450</b>		
<b>Public Schools</b>	<u>2003-04</u>		
Elementary Schools	462		
Middle, 7&8, Junior High Schools	222		
High Schools	<u>175</u>		
<b>Total Schools</b>	<b>859</b>		
<b>Nonpublic School Enrollment (Self-Reported)</b>			
	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>
Private	8,431	8,286	7,818
Home school	<u>3,571</u>	<u>3,788</u>	<u>3,917</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,002</b>	<b>12,074</b>	<b>11,735</b>

Certified Staff (Full-Time Equivalent)	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>
Teachers - Classroom, Title I, Special Education	10,362	10,300
Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents	152	145
Principals and Assistant Principals	499	504
Other - Central Office Program Coordinators	150	161
Specialists - Library, Guidance Counselors	790	788
Special Education Directors, School Psychologists	<u>85</u>	<u>87</u>
<b>Total Certified Staff FTE</b>	<b>12,038</b>	<b>11,985</b>
Paraprofessionals	<u>1,731</u>	<u>1,870</u>
<b>Total Staff</b>	<b>13,769</b>	<b>13,855</b>
Student/Teacher Ratio		
	<u>2000-01</u>	<u>2001-02</u>
U.S. Department of Education, NCES Quick Tables & Figures		
Montana average	14.9	14.9
National average	16.0	15.9

